

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

creating a virtual data storage parcel, the virtual data storage parcel including a number of virtual logical data blocks of a first size;

creating ~~one or more~~ a physical data storage parcel[[s]], ~~each of the one or more~~ physical data storage parcel[[s]] including a number of physical data storage blocks of a second size that is smaller than the first size; and

mapping the virtual logical data blocks in the virtual data storage parcel to the physical data storage blocks in the physical data storage parcel[[s]];

wherein the larger size of the virtual logical data blocks provides additional storage space for data of one or more types including at least one of error correction code data, cyclic redundancy check data, checksum data, timestamp data and cache history data.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein a combined size of the one or more physical data storage parcels exceeds the size of the virtual data storage parcel~~, the method further comprising:

storing data pertaining to the virtual data storage parcel in one or more of the physical data storage blocks in the physical data storage parcel[[s]];

wherein a size of the physical data storage parcel exceeds a size of the virtual data storage parcel.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein data pertaining to the physical data storage parcel[[s]] includes data of one or more types selected from a list consisting of error correction code data, cyclic redundancy check data, checksum data, timestamp data and cache history data.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein each virtual logical data block includes system data as well as data pertaining to the system data of the respective virtual logical data block.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the data pertaining to the virtual logical data block includes data of one or more types of data selected from the list consisting of error correction code data, cyclic redundancy check data, checksum data, timestamp data and cache history data.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the virtual data storage parcel includes eight virtual logical data blocks, the eight virtual logical data blocks mapped to [[a]] the physical data storage parcel including that includes nine physical data storage blocks.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the nine physical data storage blocks are each 512 bytes in length.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the size of each virtual logical data block varies within a data storage system.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
determining a number of physical data storage ~~pareels~~ blocks based upon  
consideration of size overhead and performance overhead.

10. (Currently Amended) A data storage system comprising:  
a storage medium;  
a processing system; and  
a memory, coupled to the processing system, the memory having stored therein instructions which, when executed by the processing system, cause the processing system to:  
create a virtual data storage parcel, the virtual data storage parcel including a number of virtual logical data storage blocks of a first size,  
create ~~one or more~~ a physical data storage parcel[[s]], ~~each of the one or more~~ physical data storage parcel[[s]] including a number of physical data storage blocks of a second size that is smaller than the first size, and  
map the virtual logical data storage blocks in the virtual data storage parcel to the physical data storage blocks in the physical data storage parcel[[s]];  
wherein the larger size of the virtual logical data blocks provides additional storage space for data of one or more types including at least one of error correction code data, cyclic redundancy check data, checksum data, timestamp data and cache history data.
11. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 10 ~~wherein a combined size of the one or more physical data storage parcels exceeds the size of the virtual data storage parcel, and~~ wherein the instructions which, when executed by the processing system, further cause the processing system to:  
store data pertaining to the virtual data storage parcel in one or more of the physical data storage blocks in the physical data storage parcel[[s]];

wherein a size of the physical data storage parcel exceeds a size of the virtual data storage parcel.

12. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 10 wherein data pertaining to the physical data storage parcel[[s]] includes data of one or more types selected from a list consisting of error correction code data, cyclic redundancy check data, checksum data, timestamp data and cache history data.

13. (Original) The data storage system of claim 12 wherein each virtual logical data block includes system data as well as data pertaining to the system data of the respective virtual logical data block.

14. (Original) The data storage system of claim 13 wherein the data pertaining to the virtual logical data block includes data of one or more types of data selected from the list consisting of error correction code data, cyclic redundancy check data, checksum data, timestamp data and cache history data.

15. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 10 wherein the virtual data storage parcel includes eight virtual logical data blocks, the eight virtual logical data blocks mapped to [[a]] the physical data storage parcel including that includes nine physical data storage blocks.

16. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 15 wherein the nine physical data storage blocks are each 512 bytes in length.

17. (Original) The data storage system of claim 10 wherein the size of each virtual logical data block varies within the data storage system.

18. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 10 wherein the instructions which, when executed by the processing system, further cause the processing system to determine a number of physical data storage ~~parcels~~ blocks based upon consideration of size overhead and performance overhead.

19. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

creating a virtual data storage parcel, the virtual data storage parcel including a number of virtual logical data blocks of a first size;

creating ~~one or more~~ a physical data storage parcel~~[[s]]~~, ~~each of the one or more~~ physical data storage parcel~~[[s]]~~ including a number of physical data storage blocks of a second size that is smaller than the first size; and

mapping the virtual logical data blocks in the virtual data storage parcel to the physical data storage blocks in the physical data storage parcel~~[[s]]~~;

wherein the larger size of the virtual logical data blocks provides additional storage space for data of one or more types including at least one of error correction code data, cyclic redundancy check data, checksum data, timestamp data and cache history data.

20. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19 wherein ~~a combined size of the one or more physical data storage parcels exceeds the size of the virtual data storage parcel~~, the method further comprises comprising:

storing data pertaining to the virtual data storage parcel in one or more of the physical data storage blocks in the physical data storage parcel~~[[s]]~~;

wherein a size of the physical data storage parcel exceeds a size of the virtual data storage parcel.

21. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein data pertaining to the physical data storage parcel[[s]] includes data of one or more types selected from a list consisting of error correction code data, cyclic redundancy check data, checksum data, timestamp data and cache history data.

22. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 21 wherein each virtual logical data block includes system data as well as data pertaining to the system data of the respective virtual logical data block.

23. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the data pertaining to the virtual logical data block includes data of one or more types of data selected from the list consisting of error correction code data, cyclic redundancy check data, checksum data, timestamp data and cache history data.

24. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the virtual data storage parcel includes eight virtual logical data blocks, the eight virtual logical data blocks mapped to [[a]] the physical data storage parcel including that includes nine physical data storage blocks.

25. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the nine physical data storage blocks are each 512 bytes in length.

26. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the size of each logical data block varies within a data storage system.

27. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the method further comprises:

determining a number of physical data storage blocks ~~parcels~~ based upon consideration of size overhead and performance overhead.

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